

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tool assembly for attachment to a cutter wheel for use in tree stump removal, the assembly comprising:
  - a tooth including a cutting head and a shank depending from the head, the shank including a first flat opposite a second flat; and
  - a pocket including:
    - opposing wheel and exterior faces, and
    - a tooth receiving slot formed in the wheel face and including a base;wherein the tooth shank defines one of a projection and a recess and the pocket defines the other of the projection and the recess;  
further wherein upon coupling the tooth shank to the tooth receiving slot, substantially an entirety of a peripheral edge of the projection contacts a wall of the recess to resist a torque applied to the cutting head.
2. The tool assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the flats define the recess and the pocket defines the projection, the projection extending from the base of the tooth receiving slot.
3. The tool assembly of claim 1, wherein the tooth couples to the pocket with a zero clearance fit between the projection and the recess.
4. The tool assembly of claim 3, wherein the zero clearance fit is a snap fit.
5. The tool assembly of claim 1, wherein the recess is further defined by a base, the wall extending from the base of the recess at an angle in the range of 2 degrees to 30 degrees.

6. The tool assembly of claim 1, wherein the recess and the projection are configured such that upon assembly, axial movement of the tooth within the pocket is eliminated.
7. The tool assembly of claim 1, wherein the recess and the projection are configured such that upon assembly, lateral movement of the tooth within the pocket is eliminated.
8. The tool assembly of claim 1, wherein the projection contacts the wall of the recess such that the tooth is inseparable from the pocket under a force equal to a weight of the tooth.
9. The tool assembly of claim 1, wherein the projection defines a length and a width in longitudinal cross-section, the length selected to be at least twice the width.
10. A cutter wheel assembly rotatably disposed on a tree stump removal machine, the assembly comprising:
  - a cutter wheel; and
  - at least two tool assemblies cooperatively coupled to the cutter wheel, each tool assembly including:
    - a tooth having a cutting head and a shank depending from the cutting head, the shank including a first flat opposing a second flat, and
    - a pocket defining opposing wheel and exterior faces, and a tooth receiving slot formed in the wheel face;wherein each tooth shank defines one of a projection and a recess and each pocket defines the other of the projection and the recess;

further wherein each tooth receiving slot couples with a corresponding one of the teeth shanks with a zero clearance fit between the respective projections and the recesses.

11. The cutter wheel assembly of claim 10, wherein at least one of the flats define the recess and the pocket defines the projection, the projection extending from a base of the tooth receiving slot.

12. A method of attaching a cutting tooth to a cutter wheel rotatably disposed on a tree stump removal machine, the method comprising:

providing the tooth, the tooth including a cutting head and a shank depending from the head, the shank including a first flat and a second flat;

providing a pocket, the pocket defining opposing wheel and exterior faces, a tooth receiving slot formed in the wheel face;

configuring the tooth shank to define one of a projection and a recess;

configuring the pocket to define the other of the projection and the recess;

snap fitting the projection into the recess to form an assembly such that substantially an entirety of a peripheral edge of the projection contacts a wall of the recess; and

attaching the assembly to the cutter wheel;

wherein the projection and the recess tightly couple to resist a torque applied to the tooth.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein configuring the tooth shank includes configuring at least one of the flats to define the recess and configuring the pocket includes configuring the pocket to define the projection, the projection extending from a base of the tooth receiving slot.